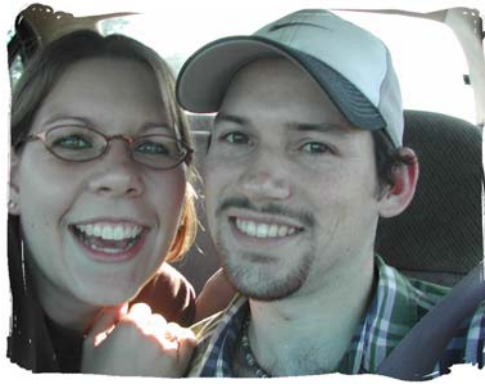


# Happy Holidays from the Copelands



He made himself nothing, He took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form. And in human form He obediently humbled Himself even further by dying a criminals death on a cross.  
Philippians 2:7-8



Canaan Joshua

It's a Boy!

As most of you know, on July 16th we found out we are expecting! And then on October 24th we found out we are being blessed with a son! What a thrilling time this is in our lives. It's been a while since our last newsletter, here's a summary of our last few months here at NTMC:

**August** - In August we traveled to Jackson, Michigan to visit Debra's sister Christy who was starting Bible School. That was the month of moves, we moved twice before finally moving in here at school. We also got our first glimpse at little Canaan during an early ultra sound.

**September** - Debra's parents visited and they were excited to see 'the belly' growing. We settled into our school routine and have been learning a lot about how to reach other cultures for Christ.

**October** - We found out that our little baby is a boy! It has been fun to plan and get used to the idea of being parents.



**November** - This was a busy month as we continued our classes. Christy came up to visit during her U.S. thanksgiving break. Norm spoke at the Bethel Bible Chapel missions conference where he was able to share our heart on missions and God's love for the world. Debra was diagnosed with hydronephrosis which forced a lot of changes upon us. The complication is caused by the baby squishing the tube coming out of Debra's kidney, resulting in a backup and a lot of pain! We've had to restructure our daily lives but we have definitely been able to see God work during this time. The staff and

students here at NTMC have also been amazing to us. Many have brought us meals and the staff have been very accommodating.

**December** - This month we made another move, our 4th since the last newsletter! Our new place allows Debra to rest more easily and makes things a bit easier, though there is still no running water. Debra's family have also blessed us with plane tickets to visit them during our Christmas break. We are thankful for such loving and supportive families.



**We** have been very busy these last few months but have loved our time here as we train with New Tribes Mission. The classes have been challenging and very informative. We have acquired very important tools for sharing about what Christ did for the world. What we learn is not only applicable for work overseas but for life in Canada.

**Norm** continues to do work detail each afternoon on campus while also helping Debra with her pregnancy. It has kept him busy but it has been a very rewarding time as well.

**Debra** continues to grow as she is nearing her third trimester of pregnancy. It has been a challenge for her as she continues to attend class and keep up our home. But we constantly see God supply our needs and know that He is totally sufficient.

**We** are very thankful for all of you and the role you have in our training with **New Tribes Mission Canada**. You are all a crucial part of our ministry and we couldn't be here without your prayers and support.

*Merry Christmas!*

*Norm & Debra Copeland*



Making faces at the 'harvest round up' here at

Celebrating Debra's 21st birthday despite "morning



Norm in a pie



"The Tummy" at 24 weeks or 5 and a half months



Norm speaking at Bethel Bible Missions Confer-

Canaan Joshua Copeland



Canoeing with classmates (Norm is holding a cat fish skeleton)



The ever growing gerbil harem!



## Prayer Requests

- Health for Norm, Debra, and Canaan!
- Prayer and financial support
- Our relationships with classmates and teachers
- Focus on God and classes
- Travel during the holidays

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## Why take the time to train?

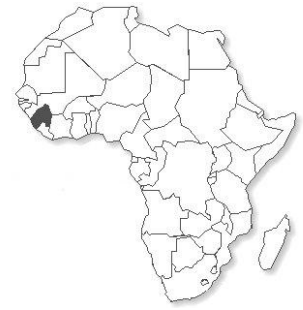
A lot of training is involved when it comes to overseas missions, here are some reasons why...

### **It's Important to:**

- *Have a firm foundation in God's Word.* To teach tribal people, it's crucial for us to have a firm grasp of God's Word and to have a growing relationship with Him. New Tribes Bible Institute took us through the Bible chronologically.
- *Understand Culture & Animism.* Animism is the belief system dominant in tribal groups. They believe that spiritual beings influence their daily lives so it is important to understand how this affects their thinking. Culture affects how they will interpret what we say, we need to understand this before we teach so that syncretism will not occur. Syncretism is the blending of their tribal beliefs with Christianity. We don't want conformity! We want them to have a real relationship with their creator.
- *Know how to learn a tribal language.* It's important to be able to speak in a person's heart language so that we can communicate God's Word clearly. Their own language speaks to their heart.

## Where will we go?

### **Guinea, West Africa**



Lord willing we plan to work in Guinea, West Africa once we complete the training. God has laid on our hearts a particular need there - the guest house located in the capital city, Conakry. The guest house is an integral part of NTM's work in Guinea. Missionaries flying in and out of Guinea stay in the guesthouse as well as those buying supplies for work in the tribe. Government relations work is also done in Conakry. The guest house ministry is a ministry of encouragement through which we hope to support and encourage all the missionaries that come through. We believe that God has gifted us to help support those working in the tribe and we are excited to serve in that role.

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## **Links of Note:**

*Email:*

[norm.debra@gmail.com](mailto:norm.debra@gmail.com)

*Our Blog:*

<http://normdebracopeland.blogspot.com>

*Our Ministry Website:*

<http://copelandministry.blogspot.com>

*To sign up for paper or email newsletters:*

<http://copelandministry.blogspot.com/2003/06/newsletters.html>

*Change of Mailing or Email Address?*

<http://copelandministry.blogspot.com/1993/10/change-of-address.html>

*Support:*

<http://copelandministry.blogspot.com/2005/01/support.html>

*New Tribes Mission:*

<http://www.ntm.org>

*NTM Guinea:*

<http://www.ntm.org/guinea>

